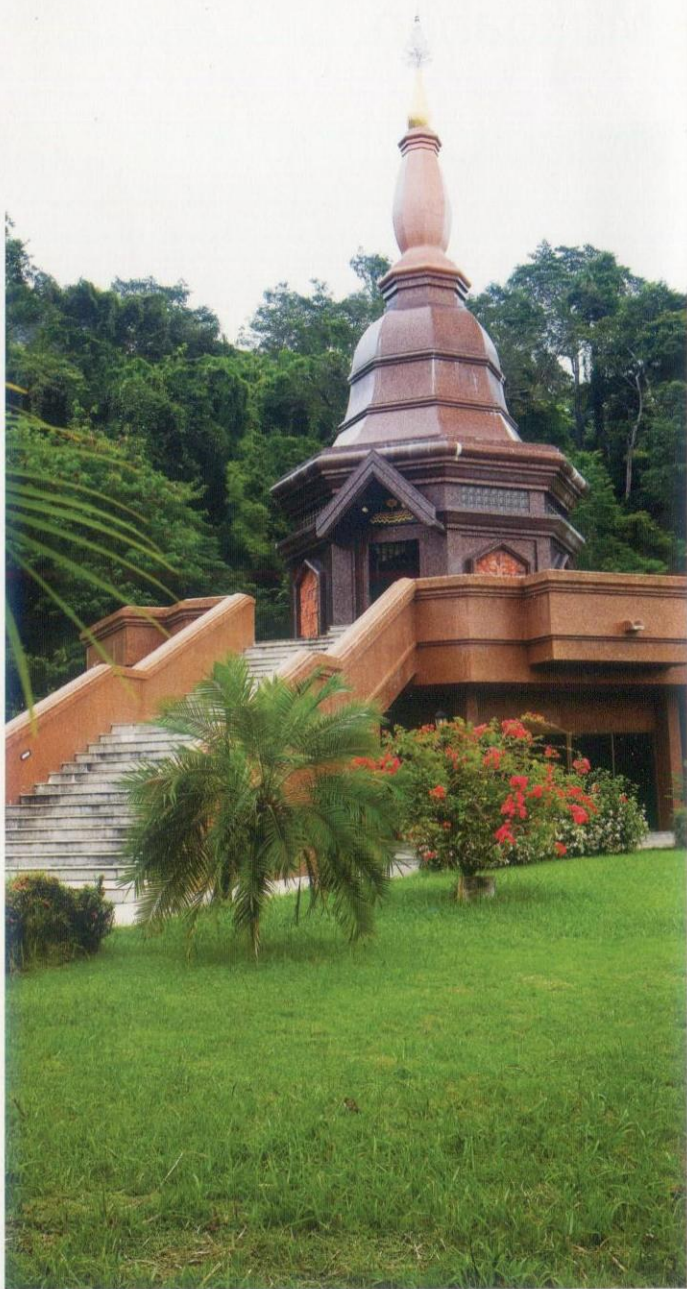


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THAILAND
Amazing Value

Mukdahan





Wat Banphot Khiri

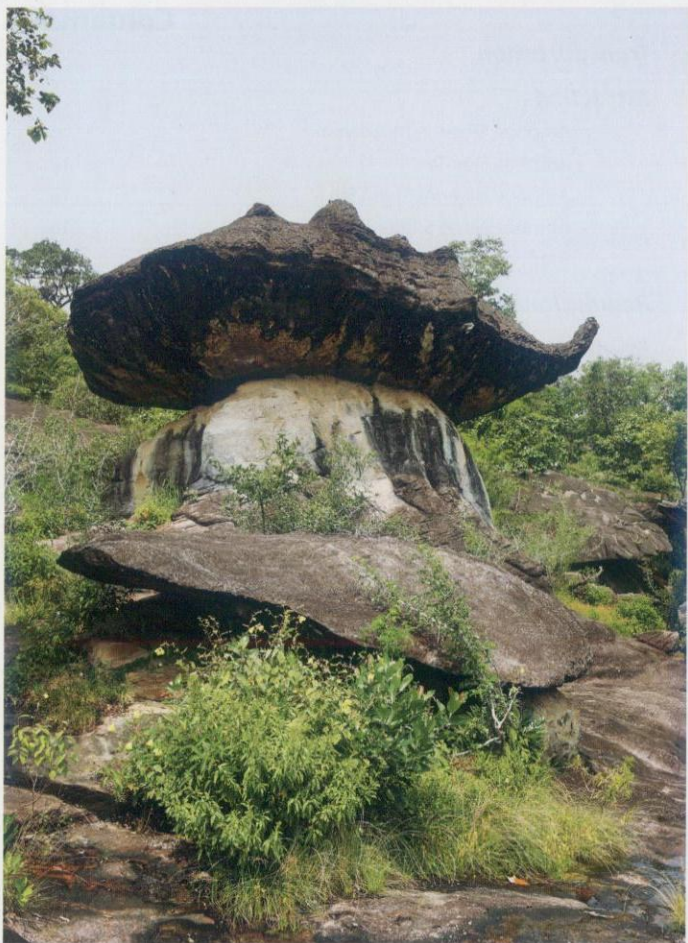
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Thai Term Glossary

Amphoe: District
Ao: Bay
Ban: Village
Hat: Beach
Khao: Mountain
Ko: Island
Laem: Cape
Maenam: River
Mueang: Town or City
Mu Ko: Group of Islands (Archipelago)
Namtok: Waterfall
Phu: Mountain
Tambon: Sub-district
Tham: Cave
Ubosot or Bot: Ordination hall in a temple
Wihan: Image hall in a temple
Wat: Temple

Note: English spelling here given tries to approximate Thai pronunciation. Posted signs may be spelled differently. When seeking help from a Thai for direction, point to the Thai spellings given after each place name.



Hin Thoep Rocks

Mukdahan

Mukdahan is the 73rd province of Thailand. Its history dates from the late Ayutthaya period, over 200 years ago. At first, on the left side of the Mekong River, there was a large community called Ban Luang Phon Sin located by Phrathat Ing Hang, presently in Savannakhet Province of Lao PDR. The community was ruled by Chao Chan Suriyawong. His son was Chao Kinnari. He later built a new town at the mouth of Huai Muk on the right bank of the Mekong River in 1767. The town was completed in 1770 and named "Mukdahan" (moonstone or pearl) according to a propitious sign occurring to him while the town was under construction. That is why the locals call the town "Mueang Muk".

During the reign of King Taksin the Great, Chao Kinnari was promoted as Phraya Chanthon Si Surat Upparacha Manthaturat to be the first ruler of Mukdahan in 1778.

At first, Mukdahan was part of 'Monthon Udon' or Udon Circle. In 1907, the Circle was dissolved to become a province and Mukdahan was then an Amphoe of Nakhon Phanom province. It was promoted as Mukdahan province in 1982 as the country's 73rd province and the 17th province of Isan.

Actually, Mukdahan is a significant gateway to Indochinese countries. The local people of Mukdahan actually have had a long relationship with the people in Savannakhet province of Lao PDR. although they are apart by the 70 kms. long Mekong River. Mukdahan is home to 8 ethnic minorities; namely, Thai Isan, Phu Thai, Thai Kha, Kraso, Thai Kaloeng, Thai Yo, Thai Saek, and Thai Kula. It has abundant natural beauty. Mukdahan covers a total area of 4,339.830 sq. kms. It can be divided into 7 districts; namely, Amphoe Mueang Mukdahan, Amphoe Khamcha-i, Amphoe Don Tan, Amphoe Nikhom Kham Soi, Amphoe Dong Luang, Amphoe Wan Yai, and Amphoe Nong Sung.

Boundaries

- North : Connects to Sakon Nakhon and Nakhon Phanom provinces.
- South : Connects to Yasothon, Amnat Charoen, and Roi Et provinces.
- East : Connects to Savannakhet province of Lao PDR. with the Mekong River as the border.
- West : Connects to Kalasin and Roi Et provinces.

Transportation

By car: Mukdahan is 642 kms. from Bangkok. Take the route Bangkok - Saraburi - Nakhon Ratchasima - Amphoe Ban Phai - Maha Sarakham - Amphoe Phon Thong - Roi Et - Amphoe Khamcha-i - Mukdahan.

Another route is Bangkok - Saraburi - Nakhon Ratchasima on Highway 2. Then turn right into Highway 207 at Ban Wat and go through the route Amphoe Prathai - Amphoe Phutthaisong - Amphoe Phayakkhaphum Phisai - Amphoe Kaset Wisai - Amphoe Suwannaphum, then use Highway 2169 via Amphoe Sai Mun - Amphoe Kut Chum - Amphoe Loeng Nok Tha, and Highway 212 via Amphoe Nikhom Kham Soi to Mukdahan.

By bus: The Transport Co., Ltd. operates daily bus services from the Bangkok Bus Terminal (Chatuchak or Mo Chit 2), Tel. 0 2936 2852-66. There are also local buses connecting Mukdahan with other Northeastern provinces like Khon Kaen, Ubon Ratchathani, Nakhon Phanom, Sakon Nakhon, Udon Thani, and Maha Sarakham. For more details, please contact the Mukdahan Bus Terminal at Tel. 0 4261 1421, 0 4261 1478, 0 4261 3025-9 or click www.transport.co.th.

By train: Trains leave Bangkok Railway Station or Hua Lamphong for Ubon Ratchathani daily. From there, Mukdahan is 167 kms. by bus. For more information, call the State Railway of Thailand at Tel. 1690, 0 2220 4334, 0 2220 4444 or visit www.railway.co.th.

By plane: Thai Airways International does not operate any direct flight to Mukdahan. Passengers can fly to Nakhon Phanom or Ubon Ratchathani, then take a bus to Mukdahan. For more information, call THAI at Tel. 0 2356 1111 or visit www.thaiairways.com. or call Nok Air at 1318 or visit www.nokair.com

Distances from Amphoe Mueang Mukdahan to other districts

Amphoe Nikhom Kham Soi	28 kms.
Amphoe Don Tan	33 kms.
Amphoe Khamcha-i	35 kms.
Amphoe Wan Yai	35 kms.
Amphoe Nong Sung	50 kms.
Amphoe Dong Luang	55 kms.

Attractions

Amphoe Mueang Mukdahan

HoKaeoMukdahanChaloemPhraKiatKanchanaphisek

(หอแก้วมุกดาหารเฉลิมพระเกียรติกาญจนาภิเษก)

Located on Chayangkun Road (Mukdahan – Don Tan), the tower was built to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of His Majesty's Accession

to the Throne. The tower has a nonagonal building of 2 storeys at its base. The first floor houses an exhibition of local tools and utensils used in daily life. The second floor is a museum that features the history of Mukdahan, antiques, old photographs, and traditional attire of the 8 ethnic minorities in the province. The sixth floor on top of the tower is the observation deck that allows visitors to enjoy a panoramic view of the city, the Mekong River and Lao PDR. The topmost sphere houses a Buddha image "Phra Nawa Ming Mongkhon Mukdahan" and 7 Buddha statues in 7 different attitudes for each day of the week.

The tower is open daily from 8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. The admission is 20 baht.

Chaopho Chaofa Mung Mueang Shrine

(ศาลเจ้าพ่อเจ้าฟ้าเมือง)

The shrine, which also houses the city pillar, is located on Song Nang Sathit Road in the Amphoe Mueang Municipality. Without any solid evidence about its history, it is assumed that the shrine might have been built in the same period as the city itself. The original wooden shrine was renovated and replaced by a concrete one. For the people of Mukdahan, the shrine is considered as a sacred place of the spirit that protects the city.



Chaomae Song Nang Phi Nong Shrine

Chaomae Song Nang Phi Nong Shrine

(ศาลเจ้าแม่สองนางพี่น้อง)

Situated on Samran Chai Khong Road, next to the Mukdahan Immigration Bureau, the shrine was originally built of wood and rebuilt later with concrete. Legend says that two Laotian princesses boarded a boat to Mukdahan but an accident in the river cost their lives; hence, a shrine was built by a seven-topped sugar palm tree in the same time that the Mukdahan city was constructed by Chao Kinnari. The people of Mukdahan consider this shrine another sacred place. Both the Chaomae Song Nang Phi Nong and Chaopho Chaofa Mung Mueang Shrines are twin sacred icons of the city. Every year, on the full moon day of the sixth lunar month, around May, a celebration for both shrines will be held.



Wat Si Mongkhon Tai

Wat Si Mongkhon Tai (วัดศรีมงคลใต้)

The temple is located on Samran Chai Khong Road by the Mekong River. Its main ordination hall or Ubosot houses a concrete Buddha statue, which is considered a sacred item of Mukdahan. The Buddha statue is 2.2 metres wide and 2 metres high. History about this ancient Buddha statue remains doubtful; however, legend says that two statues

were found in 1767 when Chao Kinnari was constructing Mukdahan city by the seven-topped sugar palm tree. The large statue was built from concrete while the smaller one, found underneath a Pho or Bodhi tree, was made from steel. A temple was built to house both Buddha images. One day, the smaller Buddha image disappeared and was found buried under the Pho tree where it had been found, with only the top of the statue emerging above the ground. Chao Kinnari had an altar built there and named the smaller Buddha statue "Phra Lup Lek" and the larger Buddha statue "Phrachao Ong Luang". Both have become sacred Buddha images for Mukdahan since then.

Indochina Market (ตลาดสินค้าอินโดจีน)

The market lines the Mekong River, close to the Immigration Bureau. The major shopping area is the hub of products, local and imported, as well as OTOP of Mukdahan.

Wat Si Bun Rueang (Ban Tai) (วัดศรีบุญเรือง - บ้านไต้)

The temple is situated on Samran Chai Khong Road, in Mukdahan city. The ordination hall houses a bronze Buddha statue called Phra Phutthasing Song, which is 1 metre wide and 1.2 metres high.

When Mukdahan was completed, Chao Kinnari took this Buddha image from Vientiane and placed at Wat Si Mongkhon Tai. Later, a new temple was built at Ban Si Bun Rueang and the image was moved to be placed here until now. During the Songkran Festival of each year, the people of Mukdahan always carry the Buddha image on a float around the town for people to bathe.

Phu Pha Thoep National Park (อุทยานแห่งชาติภูผาเทิบ)

The country's 59th national park covers a total area of 58.9 sq kms. in Amphoe Mueang and Amphoe Don Tan. The park's geography features undulating sandstone mountains that form the edge of the Phu Phan Range. Situated 4 kms. from the Mekong River, the range lies in the North - South direction.

The park has many mountains at an elevation between 170-420 metres above sea level; namely, Phu Mak Yang, Phu Mano, Phu Prong, Phu Rang, Phu Chom Nang, Phu Mak Mi, Phu Pha Thoep, Phu Nang Hong, Phu Tham Phra, Phu Lak Se, with Phu Chom Si being the highest peak.

The deciduous dipterocarp forest and mixed deciduous forest cover most part of the area, which is also the watershed of many streams; namely, Huai Ta Lueak, Huai Sing, Huai Ruea, Huai Male, Huai Chang Chon, etc. The mountain slopes are blanketed with bamboo forest. There are numerous high cliffs and rock terraces. Its attractions include:

Hin Thoep Rocks (กลุ่มหินเทิบ)

The formations of superimposed rocks called Hin Thoep have been eroded by rain, water, wind and sun for 120 - 95 million years. Today, these rocks appear in different forms such as a jet plane, flying saucer, Chinese pavilion, crown, crocodile and conch. Each layer of the rocks has different durability depending on the different contents of the sandstone. The upper brown layer is more durable with lots of silica and small stones. The lower layer has a paler colour with high content of carbonate, making it less durable.

Geologically, the group of Hin Thoep comprises sedimentary rock of the Sao Khua Formation, and Phu Phan Formation of the Korat Group. The formations are classified to be from the Mesozoic Era, comprising mudstone, sandstone, siltstone, and 200-metre-thick layer of conglomerate.

Lan Mutchalin (ลานมูจลินท์)

Next to the group of Hin Thoep is a vast rock plateau among the embrace of dwarf deciduous dipterocarp forest featuring bushes, with its uniqueness being the community of tiny plants such as Soi Suwanna, Yat Nam Khang, Nao Duean Ha, Dao Ruam Duang and Dusita. These tiny plants that blanket the whole rock terrace, will be in full bloom between October to December of each year. From the mid of the terrace, scenery of the Mekong River can be seen.

Namtok Wang Duean Ha (น้ำตกวังเดือนห้า)

The small waterfall originates from many streams that run through Lan Mutchalin. Seepage from this waterfall plays a significant role in nourishing wildlife and plants in the park. The scenic landscape of the waterfall, comprising rock valley and boulders, always fascinates tourists.

Pha Ut (ผาอุท)

This cliff has a rock that looks like a camel – Ut in Thai. Pha Ut is a scenic viewpoint that allows visitors to see Phu Tham Phra, Pha Phak Wan and Pha Khi Mu. Below this cliff is the vast valley blanketed with lush forest.

Phu Tham Phra (ภูถ้ำพระ)

The cave in this mountain houses wooden Buddha images. Legend says that this area was once a settlement of the Khmer people. Before escaping from natural disaster, the villagers kept lots of Buddha images made from silver, alloy, gold, jade, sacred plants, and wood in the cave. Now only the wooden Buddha images remain. Nearby is a beautiful waterfall called Namtok Phu Tham Phra.

Pha Manao (ผามะนาว)

The towering cliff has a waterfall that plunges below to feed the forest and wildlife. From the cliff top, tourists can witness a nice panoramic view of the Hin Thoep Rocks and Mekong River. At the mountain foot, tourists can enjoy a beautiful waterfall, forest, and wildlife. The cliff is named Pha Manao after lots of wild lime tree growing in the area.

Tham Fa Mue Daeng (ถ้ำฝ่ามือแดง)

The cave houses pre-historical paintings which archaeologists assumed are probably over 5,000 years old. This attraction is situated close to the park's safeguard unit of Phu Pha Thoep 1 (Huai Sing), some 8 kms. from the park's headquarters.

Moreover, Phu Pha Thoep has many more attractions such as Pha Ngoi and Pha Pu Chao. It can be visited in all three seasons. The rainy season is from May to September. Winter is from October to February, and Summer is from March to May. For more information, call Phu Pha Thoep National Park, Amphoe Mueang, Mukdahan province at Tel. 0 4260 1753 or the National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department in Bangkok at Tel. 0 2562 0760.

To get there, Phu Pha Thoep is 15 kms. from Mukdahan city. Use the route Mukdahan - Don Tan (Highway 2034). The park is 2 kms. from the main road.

Phu Manorom (ภูมโนรมย์)

is located approximately 5 km. from Mukdahan. It is one of the province's major places for relaxation. The Provincial Administrative Organization has had the road up the hill improved, and provided a parking area and viewpoint pavilion. From here, a panoramic view of Mukdahan, the Mekong River, the Second Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge, and Savannakhet Province in Lao PDR. can be admired.

Second Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge Mukdahan – Savannakhet (สะพานมิตรภาพ 2 มุกดาหาร – สะหวันนะเขต)

is the bridge across the Mekong River linking Amphoe Mueang Mukdahan to Savannakhet Province, Lao PDR. A passport will be needed for foreigners to cross the border. A trip to Savannakhet can be made either by a personal car or regular bus, which leaves the bus terminal on an hourly basis during 8.15 a.m. – 5.00 p.m. The fare is Bt45 on weekdays and Bt50 on weekends. From Savannakhet, visitors may continue for another 245 km. along Route 9 to Vietnam.



Second Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge Mukdahan – Savannakhet

Amphoe Don Tan

Stone Age Shells (ทอยสมัยหิน)

The conch-like shells were found 40 feet underground in the 1-foot thick limestone layer at Khok Hin Daeng, Ban Na Yo, Tambon Lao Mi. The Department of Mineral Resources had its density checked and found that the earth crust of this part is approximately 27 million years old. It is the third place of its kind to have been found in the world, making it an interesting place for litho-tourists.

To get there, use Highway 2034 and turn left at Km. 17-18 at the entrance to Ban Na Pho.

Phu Sa Dok Bua National Park (อุทยานแห่งชาติภูสระดอกบัว)

The park covers areas in three provinces including Amphoe Nikhom Kham Soi and Amphoe Don Tan of Mukdahan, Amphoe Loeng Nok Tha of Yasothon, and Amphoe Chanuman and Amphoe Senangkhanikhom of Amnat Charoen. Covering a total area of 321 sq. kms. or some 144,375 rai, the park was established on 30 December, 1992, as the country's 75th national park. Its lush forest has various types of natural beauty

such as picturesque views from the mountaintop, amazing rocks, field of wild flowers in the late rainy season, and witness the mountaintop lotus which is called by the locals "mountain of lotus".

Overall, the park features a mountainous landscape whose ranges lie in the Northwest-Southeast direction at an average elevation between 350-450 metres above sea level. Phu Krasae is the highest peak at an elevation of 491 metres. The ranges are the origination of many streams such as Huai Thom and Huai Kan Lueang that nourish the plain around the park area. The park comprises many kinds of lush forests and huge rock terraces called 'Dan' in local dialect.

Most areas are covered with mixed deciduous forest and dry evergreen forest, which are home to precious trees like Makha Mong (*Azelia xylocarpa* Craib), monkey flower tree, blackwood, and rosewood. In the jungle, particularly the large jungle at Phu Sa Dok Bua where there are water sources, various species of wildlife can be found such as barking deer, boar, hare, monkey, colugo, porcupine, and mouse deer, as well as birds like pheasant and red junglefowl. The park is beautified by scenery and rock formation. Moreover, the political conflicts in the past also add more interest and potential to the park.

Attractions in the park include:

Phu Pha Taem (ภูผาแต้ม)

The cliff houses 98 paintings of hands and symbols from the pre-historical period which may be created in the same era as Tham Fa Mue Daeng in Pha Taem National Park, Amphoe Khong Chiam, Ubon Ratchathani province. The cliff actually looks like a cave with a 60-metre-long sliding rock. The paintings are some 3-5 metres high from the ground. It requires 2 hours to visit all.

Pha Makluea (ผามะเกลือ)

Situated close to Phu Pha Taem, the rock terrace under the tree's shade and cliff offers a scenic viewpoint and rest area.

Flower Field on Phu Wat (ลานดอกไม้บนภูวัด)

By the late rainy season, the vast rock terrace is beautified by various kinds of flowers such as En A, Kradum Ngoen, and Dusita. In the past, this area was used for religious rites.

Phu Pha Hom (ภูผาหอม)

At an elevation of 366 metres above sea level, the picturesque viewpoint of Phu Pha Taem Range offers a panoramic view to the west. Turning around, tourists will see numerous mountains such as Phu

Mu, Phu Phaeng Ma, Phu Mai Sang, Phu Song, and Phu Akkharachat. It is a popular site for a sunset view and camping ground. Trekking to the site takes 2½ hours.

Phu Sa Dok Bua (ภูสระดอกบัว)

The 423-metre-high mountain is situated on the border of three provinces. At its crest, there are 11 rock pools which are a few metres wide and never dry up. All pools are fascinating as they have lots of lotus of a small size. According to the locals, these lotuses have grown wild there since a long time ago. Thus, the mountain is called Phu Sa Dok Bua, literally meaning the mountain of lotus pools. Tourists will have to trek for one day to get there.

Phu Pha Taek (ภูผาตาก)

Called by the military as "Hill 428", the beautiful hill offers a picturesque view of the ranges in the Mukdahan National Park in the northern side.

Rock Terraces and Dwarf Deciduous Dipterocarp Forests (ลานหินและป่าเต็งรังแคระ)

The rock terraces, at the sizes of 20 up to 40 rai area, can be found easily. The dwarf deciduous dipterocarp forests, which can be found with grassland, are scattered around at Phu Pha Hom, at the back of Phu Pha Daeng, Phu Bok, Phu Sa Dok Bua, Phu Hua Nak, etc.

To get there, take Highway 2277 (Amphoe Loeng Nok Tha - Amphoe Don Tan). The park is located between Km. 22 - 24, 28 kms. from Amphoe Loeng Nok Tha and 22 kms. from Amphoe Don Tan. For more information, call Phu Sa Dok Bua National Park at Tel. 0 4261 9077 or the National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department in Bangkok at Tel. 0 2562 0760.

Bronze Kettledrum (กลองมโหระทึก)

Kept at Wat Matchimawat (Wat Klang) close to Don Tan District Office, the one-sided bronze kettledrum is 86 cms. in diameter and 90 cms. long. The drum face's features a relief of the sun with 14 rays in the centre and 4 frogs at 4 directional points around the edge. The drum, which is probably more than 3,000 years old, is a collection item for the Kha and Khmer. It was first found in 1938 at the eroded bank of the Mekong River at Ban Na Tham. It was previously kept at Wat Woen Chai Mongkhon, and now at the drum tower of Wat Matchimawat.

The Princess Mother Park - Woraphat Base

(อุทยานสมเด็จพระย่า — ฐานวรพัฒน์)

Situated at Ban Na Muang, the park is actually a historical site. It was used as a military base during 1977 - 1983, when there was a



Wat Phu Dan Tae

strong conflict between the Communist Party of Thailand and the government. Today, the base is used as a historical site for tourism and occupational training for locals. The base comprises a royal pavilion of the Princess Mother, the Princess Mother's statue, bunker, and historical building where HRH the late Princess Mother and HRH Princess Galyani Vadhana stayed overnight during their trip to visit the state officials, military officers, and people in the area. It is Thailand's only military base that HRH the Princess Mother and HRH Princess Galyani Vadhana spent overnight.

To get there, take the Mukdahan - Don Tan Road and turn left at Km. 6-7.

Amphoe Nikhom Kham Soi

Wat Phu Dan Tae or Wat Phuttho Thammatharo

(วัดภูด่านแต้ หรือ วัดพุทธโธธัมมธโร)

Located at Km. 134 of Highway 212 at Ban Chai Mongkhon, Tambon Chok Chai, 4 kms. from Amphoe Nikhom Kham Soi, the temple houses a huge Buddha statue with a Dhammacakka - Wheel of the Doctrine - at the back, which can be noticed from a distance. Around the temple is a rock area. It is a favourite place for Buddhists to make pilgrimage and enjoy the beautiful ambience.

Phu Mu Forest Park *(วนอุทยานภูมู)*

Situated at an elevation of 353 metres above sea level, the park is a beautiful place of Mukdahan. With a mountaintop flat plain that covers some 4 sq. km. area, the park was once abundant with boars. The park has 3 viewpoints by the cliff.

The viewpoint 1 is situated east of the park's office. Tourists can enjoy the scenery of Phu Tham Men, Phu Mai Sang, Phu Phaeng Ma, and Huai Khilek Reservoir.

The viewpoint 2 is in the west. Tourists can see the road up to Phu Mu, Phu Noi, Phu Tio, Phu Lon, Phu Kalon, Wat Phu Dan Tae, and Phu Phan Range.

The viewpoint 3 is on the mountain crest in the south. Tourists can see Phu Tham Phra and Amphoe Loeng Nok Tha. A rock terrace and shady area for relaxing is available nearby.

To get there, take Highway 212 (Mukdahan - Loeng Nok Tha) and turn left at Km. 128-129. The park is 12 kms. off the main road via a narrow up-hill asphalted road which is not convenient for buses. Guesthouses and camping ground are available. For more information, call Phu Sa Dok Bua National Park at Tel. 0 4261 9077 or the National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department in Bangkok at Tel. 0 2562 0760.

Huai Khilek Irrigation Reservoir

(อ่างเก็บน้ำชลประทานห้วยขี้เหล็ก)

Situated on Highway 212 (Mukdahan - Loeng Nok Tha) before arriving at Phu Mu Forest Park, 2 kms. from Amphoe Nikhom Kham Soi and 23 kms. from Mukdahan, the large reservoir with a picturesque view is a major attraction of Mukdahan.

Amphoe Nong Sung

Wat Phu Ko Cho or Wat Banphot Khiri

(วัดภูก่อจ้อ หรือ วัดบรรพตคีรี)

The mountaintop temple was once accommodation for Luangpu La Khemapatto, a famous monk in Vipassana meditation of Mukdahan. A bell-shape pagoda known as Khemapattachedi was built to house his ashes, with his life-like statue placed on the top floor of the building underneath the pagoda.

Namtok Tat Ton (น้ำตกตาดโตน)

Situated at Ban Non Yang, the 7 metres high and 30 metres wide waterfall allows visitors to enjoy watery fun all year round with a pool for swimmers. The waterfall is among shady vegetation. *To get there*, from Amphoe Nong Sung, take Highway 2042 and head for Amphoe Kuchinarai of Kalasin province, turn right at Km. 67-68. The fall is 400 metres off the main road.



Kaeng Kabao

Amphoe Wan Yai

Kaeng Kabao (แก่งกะเบา)

The huge rapids on the Mekong River with a large rock terrace on the bank is a favourite picnic spot for locals. In the dry season, water descends and allows islands and beaches to show off their beauty. *To get there*, take Highway 212 (Mukdahan - That Phanom) for 20 kms., turn right to Amphoe Wan Yai for 9 kms. and the road leading to Kaeng Kabao will be found. It is 8 kms. from Wan Yai District Office.

Wat Manophirom (วัดมโนภิรมย์)

Located on the bank of the Mekong River, the ancient temple was built by artisans from Vientiane. In 1904, a fire broke out and severely damaged the temple. The renovation was completed by 1911. The temple has interesting architecture such as a Vihara or Wihan in the Lan Xang style adorned with a stucco gate and wooden bas-relief gable. The temple houses statues of eight Buddhas carved from black ivory and Phra-ong Saen, a sacred Buddha statue of Mukdahan.

Wat Ban Song Khon or Our Lady of the Martyrs of Thailand Shrine (วัดบ้านสองคอน - วัดศาสนาคริสต์ โรมันคาทอลิก)

The huge Roman Catholic Church in a modern architectural style is named the largest and most beautiful church in Southeast Asia. The church won the Architectural Design Award 1996 from the Association of Siamese Architects under Royal Patronage.

The church was built in commemoration of the seven martyrs who sacrificed their lives to proclaim their belief in God during the Franco-Thai dispute in World War II. Celebrations are held twice annually on 22 October and 16 December.

Wat Phra Si Mahapho (วัดพระศรีมหาโพธิ์)

Located in Ban Wan Yai, Tambon Wan Yai, the temple is unique with ancient architecture. The old "Sim" or Ubosot was built since 1916 in the folk northeastern style with beautifully carved wooden brackets supporting the roof. The murals inside feature the Vessantara Jataka and depict Prince Damrong Rajanubhab riding a cart when he made an inspection trip in Isan. There is also a 2-storey building of French architecture used as the monk's residence.



Wat Ban Song Khon or Our Lady of the Martyrs of Thailand Shrine

Regulations to Visit Lao PDR.

Mukdahan has a border checkpoint that allows visitors to go to Kanthabuli of Savannakhet Province of Lao PDR. The border crossing regulations are as follows:

A foreigner will require a passport and Laotian visa issued by the Embassy of Lao PDR. in Bangkok or Khon Kaen. A visa on arrival is available at the Immigration Bureau of Savannakhet with a US\$30 fee.

A ferry service costs 50 baht. An entry fee is 50 baht each for weekdays and 100 baht each for weekends. Tourists will be required to show their belongings for a Customs check. Allowed imported duty-free merchandise from Lao PDR. to Thailand include: a litre of liquor in a sealed package, 200 cigarettes or not over 500 g. in case of various brands. Goods imported beyond the allowance will be seized and the owner will be required to pay the excess tax before getting the merchandise back. For more information, call the Mukdahan Immigration Bureau at Tel. 0 4263 2878, 0 4261 1074.

Remark: A foreigner will require a passport and visa issued by the Embassy of Lao PDR. only. Additional admission for visiting cultural attractions (Phrathat Ing Hang, Phrathat Phon, and Prasat Ruean Hin) in Savannakhet will be charged and camera usage will be under regulations.

Events and Festivals

Mukdahan Red Cross Fair (งานกาชาดจังหวัดมุกดาหาร)

Held annually between 9-17 January in front of the city hall, the fair includes exhibitions, outlets of state departments, as well as local and OTOP products.

Bun Duean Hok or Bun Bang Fai Festival

(งานประเพณีบุญเดือนหก หรือ บุญบังไฟ)

The celebration of the rocket festival is held annually on 10-12 May at Mu 1-3 of Amphoe Don Tan.

Boat Races (ประเพณีการแข่งขันเรือ)

The tradition has been handed down since ancient times. It is held annually, on the 13th – 15th days of the waxing moon of the 11th lunar month, in the Mekong River to mark the end of Buddhist Lent. Tourists can witness the races at the embankment on Samran Chai Khong Road. There are 2 major categories; namely, speed racing for small, medium and large boats. All participating boats are dug to have a round hull and will compete on a 3-km. long distance on the Mekong River. Another



Phu Thai Village

category is the fantasy boat contest in which the racing boats will be decorated, particularly at the figureheads.

Each year, numerous boats join the competition in both categories while people from Mukdahan and nearby provinces as well as Lao PDR. pack the venue. Boats from Savannakhet also join the races every year.

Local Products and Souvenirs

Most local products are made in Amphoe Nong Sung and Khamcha-i where housewife groups weave excellent local textiles such as silk, tied and dyed Mudmee silk, Khit and Muk fabric, as well as produce basketry, broom, lacquer ware, etc. These products are available at the Indochina Market by the Mekong River and the local handicraft centre at the circle in front of the Public Library in the municipality.

Yun Mai Thai (ยูนิไทย)

6/4 Samran Chai Khong Road, Tambon Mukdahan. Tel. 0 4261 2336.

Samruai Mai Thai (สำรวยไหมไทย)

6/7 Samran Chai Khong Road, Tambon Nai Mueang. Tel. 0 4263 3191.

Sa-ngiam (เสงี่ยม)

(desserts and souvenirs) 10 Samran Chai Khong Road, Tambon Nai Mueang. Tel. 0 4261 1904, 0 4263 2961.

Ad Mai Thai (แอดไหมไทย)

5 Samut Sakdarak Road. Tel. 0 4261 2311.

Example of Tour Programme**1st day**

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 8.30 a.m. | Leave for Ho Kaeo Mukdahan, visit the exhibition regarding the history of the province, ethnic groups, and enjoy the scenery of the Mekong River and Savannakhet Province in Lao PDR. |
| 9.30 a.m. | Visit Phu Pha Thoep National Park, explore the nature of Hin Thoep, Namtok Wang Duean Ha, Lan Mutchalin, Phu Tham Phra and Tham Fa Mue Daeng. |
| 12.00 a.m. | Lunch. |
| 1.00 p.m. | Visit Wat Manophirom, the 200-year-old temple in the Lan Xang design. |
| 2.00 p.m. | Visit Wat Phra Si Mahapho, the ancient temple of Amphoe Wan Yai. |
| 3.00 p.m. | Visit Wat Ban Song Khon, the largest and most beautiful Roman Catholic Church in Southeast Asia. |
| 4.00 p.m. | Visit Kaeng Kabao and enjoy the Mekong scenery. |
| 5.30 p.m. | Get back and stay overnight in Mukdahan. |

2nd day

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 9.00 a.m. | Pay homage to the city pillar shrine, Chaopho Chaofa Mung Mueang Shrine, Chaomae Song Nang Phi Nong Shrine, Phrachao Ong Luang Buddha statue in Wat Si Mongkhon Tai and Phra Phutthasing Song, Wat Si Bun Rueang. |
| 10.00 a.m. | Shopping at the Indochina Market. |
| 12.00 a.m. | Lunch. |
| 1.00 p.m. | Head to Amphoe Nong Sung to visit Namtok Tat Ton, visit Wat Banphot Khiri, and pay respect to the statue of Luangpu La as well as the Khemapattachedi. |
| 3.30 p.m. | Return to the hotel. |

Facilities in Mukdahan

Accommodation

(The room rates may be changed, please check again before making a reservation)

Amphoe Mueang Mukdahan

Kimcheksin 1 (กิมเจ็กซิน ๑)

40/5 Phithak Phanom Khet Road.

Tel. 0 4263 1041. 80 rooms: 250-350 baht.

Kimcheksin2 (กิมเจ็กซิน ๒)

95/1 Phithak Phanom Khet Road.

Tel. 0 4263 1310. 90 rooms: 280-380 baht.

Khiang Phiman (เคียงพิมาน)

26 Damrong Mukda Road.

Tel. 0 4261 5284-8, Fax. 0 4261 5289. 60 rooms: 550-1,400 baht.

Chuenkhuang-Inn (ชื่นขวัญอินท์)

74 Phongsai Road. Tel. 0 4263 0736. 49 rooms: 250-450 baht.

Diamond Guesthouse (ไดมอนด์ เกสต์เฮาส์)

1/1-16 Samut Sakdarak Road, Soi Chanthep. Tel. 0 4261 2444. 16 rooms: 300-350 baht.

Sapmukda (ทรัพย์มุกดา)

33/47 Chayangkun Road.

Tel. 0 4261 4222-3, Fax. 0 4261 4223. 34 rooms: 350 baht.

Sapmukda Grand Hotel (ทรัพย์มุกดา แกรนด์ ไฮเต็ล)

72 Samut Sakdarak Road. Tel. 0 4263 3444, fax. 0 4261 2666. 68 rooms: 400-500 baht.

Thanchinda Resort (ธารจินดา รีสอร์ท)

18/2 Mu 4 Tambon Bang Sai Yai.

Tel. 0 4269 4233. 57 rooms: 500-1,400 baht.

Banthom Kasem (บรรทมเกษม)

25/2 Samut Sakdarak Road.

Tel. 0 4261 1235. 24 rooms: 160-300 baht.

Bungalow Saensuk (บังกะโลแสนสุข)

136 Phithak Santi Rat Road, Tambon Nai Mueang.

Tel., Fax. 0 4261 1214. 17 rooms: 280-350 baht.

Ploy Palace (พลอยพาเลซ)

40 Phithak Phanom Khet Road.

Tel. 0 4263 1111-20, Fax. 0 4264 1883. 154 room 1,050-10,000 baht

www.ploypalace.com

Manorom Resort (มโนรมย์ รีสอร์ท)

22 Mu 1 Mukdahan – Don Tan Road.

Tel. 0 4263 2151. 20 rooms: 250-650 baht.

Mukdasawan Resort (มุกดาสวรรค์ รีสอร์ท)

69 Mu 4 Chayangkun Road (Mukdahan- That Phanom).

Tel. 0 4269 4209. 12 rooms: 500-6,000 baht.

Mukdahan Grand Hotel (มุกดา แกรนด์ ไฮเต็ล)

78 Song Nang Sathit Road.

Tel. 0 4261 2020, Fax. 0 4261 2021. 199 rooms: 900-2,500 baht.

Mukthara (มุกธารา)

207 Phithak Phanom Khet Road.

Tel. 0 4263 0657, Fax. 0 4261 5280. 125 rooms: 400-1,200 baht.

River City (ริเวอร์ ซิตี้)

28 Mukdahan Don Tan.

Tel. 0 4261 5444-50, Fax. 0 4261 5451. 66 rooms: 600-750 baht.

Suni Bungalow (สุนีย์ บังกะโล)

50 Chayangkun Road. Tel. 0 4261 2681. 20 rooms: 200-300 baht.

Saengthai (แสงไทย)

9/2 Wiwit Surakan Road. Tel. 0 4261 1121. 30 rooms: 250-450 baht.

Hong Kong (ฮ่องกง)

161/1-2 Phithak Santi Rat Road, In front of Police Station. Tel. 0 4261

1143. 10 rooms: 180 baht.

Huanam (ฮวน่า)

36 Samut Sakda Rak. Tel. 0 4261 1137. 29 rooms: 120-350 baht.

Amphoe Wan Yai**Kaeng Kabao Resort** (แก่งกะเบา รีสอร์ท)

108 Mu 10, Tambon Pong Kham.

Tel. 0 4261 3354. 9 rooms: 200-400 baht.

Khun Wan Resort (ขุนหวาน รีสอร์ท)

78 Mu 1, Wan Yai – Khaeng Kabao Road, Tambon Pong Kham.

Tel. 0 4269 9386, 0 4269 9444. 7 rooms: 250-400 baht.

Amphoe Don Tan**Rai Hinsui Resort** (ไร่หินซุย)

Tel. 08 1615 5257, 0 2517 2344. 6 houses: 400-600 baht.

Restaurants

Amphoe Mueang Mukdahan

Krua Sai-Ngon (ครัวไซง่อน)

105 Samut Sakdarak Road. Tel. 0 4261 2621.

Krua Ban Rimnam (ครัวบ้านริมน้ำ)

92 Samran Chai Khong Road. Tel. 0 4263 2929.

Krua Phuthai (ครัวภูไทย)

In Mukdahan Grand Hotel. Tel. 0 4261 2020.

Krua Anchan (ครัวอัญชัน)

10/1 Samran Chai Khong Nuea Road. Tel. 0 4261 1736.

Country Home (คันทรีโฮม)

72/11 Wiwit Surakan Road, Tambon Mukdahan Tel. 0 4263 3269.

Khu Faed (คูแฝด)

1-2 Behind Mukdahan Police Station. Tel. 0 4261 2252.

Khiang Khong (เคียงโขง)

Samran Chai Khong Road. Tel. 0 4263 2735.

Chalongchai Plaphao (ฉลองชัยปลาเผา)

Ban Na Po Yai, Samran Chai Khong Road. Tel. 0 4261 3913.

Tonkla Nueayang Kaoli (ต้นกล้า เนื้อย่างเกาหลี)

93 Phithak Phanom Khet. Tel 0 4261 4744.

Thipwari (ทิพย์วารี)

133/1 Samran Chai Khong Road. Tel. 0 4261 2273.

Natphop (นัดพบ)

11 Wiwit Surakan Road. Tel. 0 4261 1189.

Natphop Rim Khong (นัดพบริมโขง)

91 Samran Chai Khong Road, behind Mukdahan Inter Hospital. Tel. 0 4263 2543, 08 9711 6063.

B J Nongkai Tun (บี เจ น่องไก่ตุ๋น)

42/49-50 Phithak Phanom Khet Road. Tel. 0 4263 0986, 0 4261 2049.

Busarakham (บุษราคัม)

In Ploy Palace Hotel. Tel. 0 4261 1075.

Pa Suea (ป่าเสือ)

520 Samran Chai Khong Nuea Road. Tel. 0 4261 4012.

Phai Rim Khong (ไผ่ริมโขง)

Samran Chai Khong Road.

Maenam Khong (แม่น้ำโขง)

164/3 Samran Chai Khong Tai Road. Tel. 0 4263 3227-8, 0 4261 2034.

Maewang Plaphao (แม่วังปลาเผา)

657 Samran Chai Khong Nuea Road. Tel. 0 4263 9027.

Maesakhon Plaphao (แม่สาคร ปลาเผา)

675 Samran Chai Khong Nuea Road. Tel. 0 4261 4549.

Rabiang Rachai (ระบียงราชัย)

Samran Chai Khong Road.

Riverside (ริเวอร์ไซด์)

103/3 Samran Chai Khong Tai Road. Tel. 0 4261 1705, 0 4261 2845.

Riverview (ริเวอร์วิว)

Samran Chai Khong Road.

Ruean Phae Maemuk (เรือนแพแม่มุก)

Samran Chai Khong Nuea Road. Tel. 0 4261 2839.

Ruean Moris (เรือนมอริส)

94 Samran Chai Khong Road (Wat Yot Kaeo Pier).

Tel. 0 4261 2034, 0 4263 3226-7

Hongthong Plaphao (หงษ์ทองปลาเผา)

Ban Na Po Yai, Samran Chai Khong Nuea Road. Tel. 0 4261 3781.

Lan Ya Mo (ลานย่าโม)

323 Mu 1, Tambon Kham Pa Lai. Tel. 0 4269 9154.

Travel Agents in Amphoe Mueang Mukdahan**Detsuwan Tour** (เดชสุวรรณ ทัวร์)

34/4 Wong Kham Pha Road, Tambon Mukdahan

Tel. 0 4263 0391, 08 1471 3116

Mukdahan Tour (มุกดาหารทัวร์)

207 Phithak Phanom Khet Road, Tambon Mukdahan.

Tel. 0 4261 2916, 08 1261 7272. Fax. 0 4263 0385

Mukdahan International Travel

(มุกดาหารอินเตอร์เนชั่นแนลการท่องเที่ยว)

127 Phithak Phanom Khet Road,

Tel. 0 4263 0079, 08 1975 0463. Fax. 0 4263 0080.

Supphaluk Travel (สุภลักษณ์การท่องเที่ยว)

11/7 Phithak Santirat Road, Tambon Si Bun Rueang Road.

Tel., Fax. 0 4261 2648.

USEFUL CALLS**Mukdahan Public Relations**

Tel. 0 4261 2297, 0 4263 2379

Mukdahan Municipal Office

Tel. 0 4261 1227

Tourist Police

Tel. 1155

Highway Police

Tel. 1193

Police Station

Tel. 0 4263 3533, 0 4261 1333

Mukdahan Hospital

Tel. 0 4261 2977, 0 4261 1208

Mukdahan Immigration Bureau

Tel. 0 4263 2878

Mukdahan Bus Terminal

Tel. 0 4261 1478, 0 4263 0486

TOURIST INFORMATION**TOURISM AUTHORITY OF THAILAND****HEAD OFFICE**

1600 New Phetchaburi Road, Makkasan Ratchathewi, Bangkok 10400

Tel: 0 2250 5500 (120 automatic lines) Fax: 0 2250 5511

E-mail: info@tat.or.th

Website: www.tourismthailand.org

MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND SPORTS

4 Ratchadamnoen Nok Avenue, Bangkok 10100

8.30 a.m. - 4.30 p.m. everyday

**TOURISM AUTHORITY OF THAILAND,
NAKHON PHANOM OFFICE**

184 Sunthon Wichit Road, Tambon Nai Mueang

Amphoe Mueang, Nakhon Phanom 48000

Tel: 0 4251 3490-1 Fax: 0 4251 3492

E-mail: tatphnom@tat.or.th

Areas of Responsibility: Nakhon Phanom, Sakon Nakhon, Mukdahan



Wat Si Mongkhon Tai



แผนที่ท่องเที่ยวจังหวัดมุกดาหาร MUKDAHAN TOURIST MAP



สถานที่ท่องเที่ยว Tourist Attractions

- 1 แก่งกะเบา Kaeng Kabao
- 2 น้ำตกตาดโตน Namtok Tat Ton
- 3 วัดศรีมงคลใต้ Wat Si Mongkhon Tai
- 4 หอแก้วมุกดาหารเฉลิมพระเกียรติกาญจนาภิเษก
Ho Kaeo Mukdahan Chaloe Phra Kiat Kanchanaphisek
- 5 อุทยานแห่งชาติภูผาเทิบ (อุทยานแห่งชาติมุกดาหาร)
Phu Pha Thoep National Park (Mukdahan National Park)
- 6 วัดพุทธโธธัมมะระโร (วัดภูด่านเตี้ย)
Wat Phuttho Thammatharo (Wat Phu Dan Tae)
- 7 อ่างเก็บน้ำชลประทานห้วยชีเหล็ก
Huai Khilek Irrigation Reservoir
- 8 วนอุทยานภูหมู Phu Mu Forest Park
- 9 อุทยานแห่งชาติภูสระดอกบัว Phu Sa Dok Bua National Park

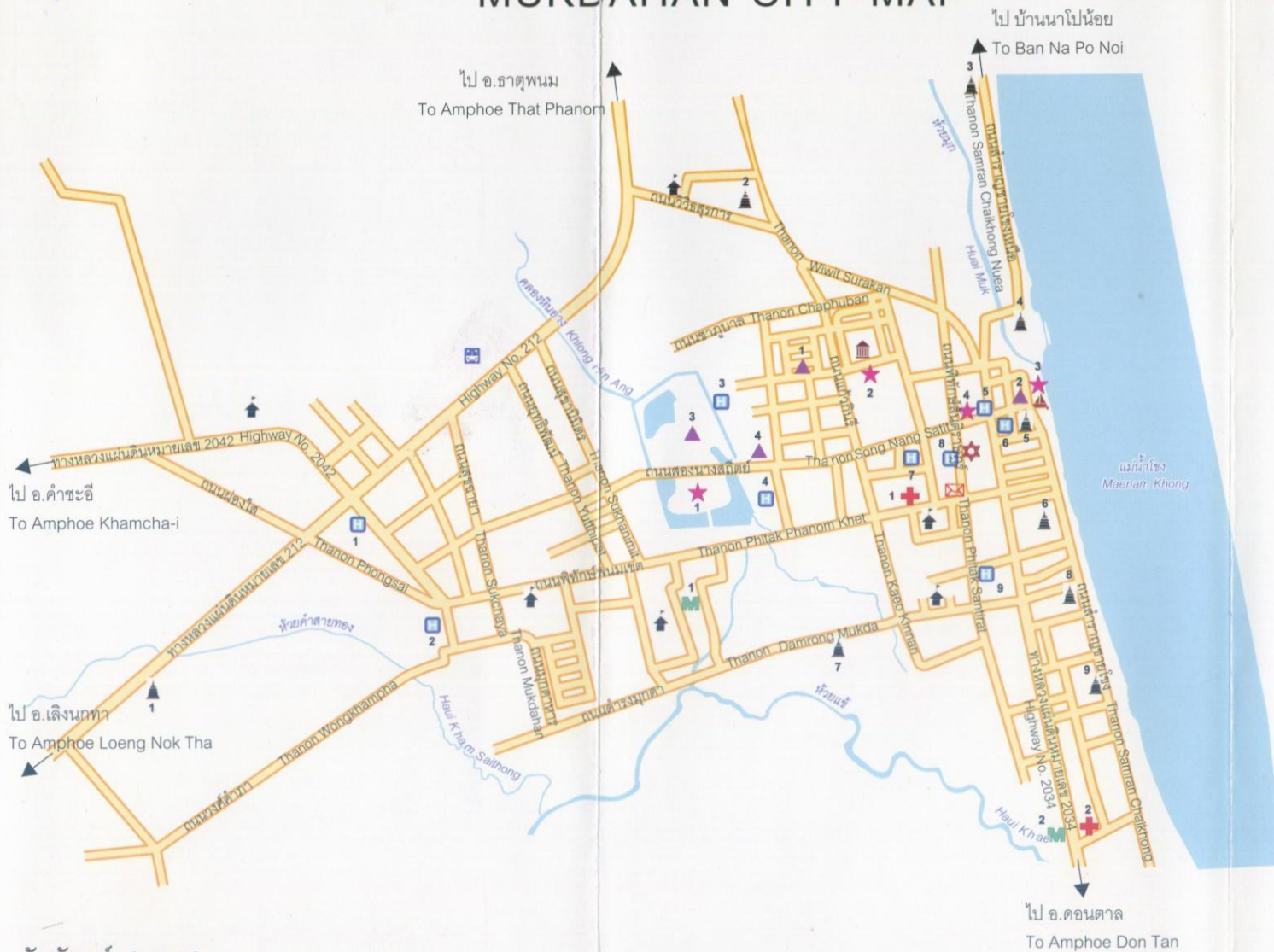
สัญลักษณ์ Legend

- | | | |
|---|-------------------|------------------------|
| ● | อำเภอ | Amphoe (District) |
| ★ | สถานที่ท่องเที่ยว | Tourist Attraction |
| — | แหล่งน้ำ, แม่น้ำ | Stream, River |
| — | ทางหลวง | Highway |
| — | เส้นขอบเขตประเทศ | International Boundary |
| — | เส้นขอบเขตจังหวัด | Province Boundary |
| — | เส้นขอบเขตอำเภอ | District Boundary |



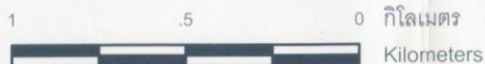


แผนที่ตัวเมืองมุกดาหาร MUKDAHAN CITY MAP



สัญลักษณ์ Legend

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------|--|----------------------|
| | ศาลากลางจังหวัด City Hall | | ไปรษณีย์ Post Office |
| | โรงเรียน School | | Road |
| | สถานีขนส่ง Bus Terminal | | Stream, River |
| | | | แหล่งน้ำ, แม่น้ำ |



H โรงแรม Hotel

- 1 โรงแรมมุกธารา Mukthara Hotel
- 2 โรงแรมเซ็นชวัญอินท์ Chuenkuan-Inn Hotel
- 3 โรงแรมมุกดาหารแกรนด์ โฮเทล Mukdahan Grand Hotel
- 4 โรงแรมพลอยพาเลซ Ploy Palace Hotel
- 5 โรงแรมฮั่วน้ำ Huanam Hotel
- 6 โรงแรมบรรทมเกษม Banthom Kasem Hotel
- 7 โรงแรมแสงไทย Saengthai Hotel
- 8 โรงแรมฮ่องกง Hong Kong Hotel
- 9 โรงแรมไดมอนด์ เกสต์เฮาส์ Diamond Guesthouse

วัด Temple (Wat)

- 1 วัดคำสายทอง Wat Kham Sai Thong
- 2 วัดอรุณรังษีโมลีนาวาส Wat Arun Rangsi Moli Wanawat
- 3 วัดนันทบุปผา Wat Nak Bun Peto
- 4 วัดศรีมงคลเหนือ Wat Si Mongkhon Nuea
- 5 วัดศรีมงคลใต้ Wat Si Mongkhon Tai
- 6 วัดยอดแก้วศรีวิชัย Wat Yot Kao Si Wichai
- 7 วัดป่าศิลาวิเวก Wat Pa Sila Wiwek
- 8 วัดศรีชุมังควนาราม Wat Sisumang Wanaram
- 9 วัดศรีบุญเรือง Wat Si Bun Rueang

+ โรงพยาบาล Hospital

- 1 โรงพยาบาลมุกดาหาร Mukdahan Hospital
- 2 โรงพยาบาลมุกดาหารอินเตอร์ Mukdahan Inter Hospital

M ตลาด Market

- 1 ตลาดเทศบาล Municipal Market
- 2 ตลาดพรเพชร Phonphet Market

สถานที่สำคัญ Places

- 1 ศาลจังหวัดมุกดาหาร Mukdahan Law Court
- 2 ที่ทำการด่านตรวจคนเข้าเมืองจังหวัดมุกดาหาร Mukdahan Immigration Border Pass Office
- 3 สนามกีฬากลางมุกดาหาร Mukdahan Stadium
- 4 สำนักงานเทศบาลเมืองมุกดาหาร Mukdahan Municipal Office

★ แหล่งท่องเที่ยว Tourist Attraction

- 1 สวนสาธารณะเฉลิมพระเกียรติกาญจนาภิเษก Chaloerm Phrakiat Kanchanaphisek Park
- 2 ศาลหลักเมืองจังหวัดมุกดาหาร City Pillar Shrine
- 3 ศาลเจ้าแม่สองนางพี่น้อง Chaomae Song Nang Phi Nong Shrine
- 4 ศาลเจ้าพ่อเจ้าฟ้าเมือง Chaopho Chaofa Mung Mueang Shrine



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*Second Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge
Mukdahan – Savannakhet*

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Website: www.tourismthailand.org